

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of permanently compressing lumber comprising the steps of: ~~compressing the lumber; and heating the compressed lumber,~~

~~characterized in,~~

[[that]] compressing the lumber which is an air-dried lumber, whose percentage of water content is 12 wt% or less, the air-dried lumber is accommodated in a compressing die and
~~contacts an inner face of the compressing die~~ including a male die section and a female die section, the air-dried lumber is compressed in the compressing die with compressibility of 50 % or more so as to compress cells of the lumber and increase the density of the lumber, and

[[that]] dry-heating the lumber in the compressing die, in which the compressed lumber is air-tightly accommodated and maintained in the ~~compressing die and heated so as to compressed~~
state, for permanently compress ~~compressing~~ the lumber.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1,
wherein the percentage of water content of the air-dried lumber is ~~5% or more~~ 5-12 wt%.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1,

wherein the compressibility is adjusted so as to make specific gravity of the compressed lumber 0.8 or more.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A method of permanently compressing lumber comprising the steps of: ~~compressing the lumber; and heating the compressed lumber,~~
~~characterized in,~~

[[that]] compressing the lumber which is a porous lumber, whose fine in which many
holes are formed by pine bark and wood borers, etc. weevils, the porous lumber is
accommodated and compressed in a compressing die ~~and compressed,~~ which includes a male die
section and a female die section; and

[[that]] dry-heating the compressed lumber, whose compressed state is maintained in the
compressing die, is heated so as to for permanently compress compressing the lumber.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 5,

wherein compressibility of the compressed lumber is adjusted so as to make flexural rigidity of the compressed lumber 130 MPa or more.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5,

wherein the compressed lumber is dry-heated, and a non-contact face of the lumber, which ~~[[is]]~~ does not contact an inner face of the compressing die including a male die section and a female die section, is exposed in the air.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 5,

wherein functional additive is filled in the ~~[[fine]]~~ many holes of the porous lumber.

10. (Currently Amended) A permanently compressed lumber, ~~which is being~~ formed by compressing and ~~heating~~ dry-heating porous lumber ~~whose fine, in which many~~ holes are formed by ~~pine bark and wood borers, etc.,~~ weevils, in a compressing die including a male die section and a female die section, and having flexural rigidity of 130 MPa or more.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A permanently compressed lumber ~~according to claim 10,~~ wherein being formed by compressing and dry-heating porous lumber, in which many holes are formed by pine weevils, in a compressing die including a male die section and a female die section, and including a functional additive which is filled in the ~~[[fine]]~~ many holes of the porous lumber.